

IDAHO WOMEN IN TIMBER

605 S. Shoreline CT
Post Falls, ID 83854

208-773-8565
December 8, 2005

Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman
Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health
Committee on Resources
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: R.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005 (FERRA)

Dear Chairman Walden:

Idaho Women in Timber (IWIT) is a non-profit grassroots organization very interested in the economy of our state and the well being of the forest products industry. Our membership is approximately 200 women and men who support sound management and use of our forest resources.

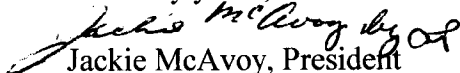
IWIT strongly endorse your efforts to pass H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act of 2005 (FERRA). We think that the need for timely response to the catastrophic events that we have witnessed in our national forests is long overdue. Anything that can be done to encourage efforts for rapid restoration of the environment and utilization of damage trees before they lose their economic value is urgently needed.

We have witnessed too many catastrophic fires in our national forests over the last several years where action has not been taken in a timely manner in order to restore the environment or utilize the material in a timely manner for the economic value.

Normally it takes the federal government two or three years to implement a recovery plan which includes any restoration and removal efforts in our national forests. Waiting this long does little to rehabilitate the forest and only adds to the problem of further deterioration and degradation of the environment and any product with value that may be extracted.

FERRA provides tools and authorities to federal land managers for the rapid assessment of damage in forestlands following catastrophic events. Thank your for your continued efforts to help and promote sustainable forestry management through HR 4200. IWIT will support this bill and encourage that it be passed as quickly as possible.

Sincerely yours,


Jackie McAvoy, President

cc: Senator Larry Craig
Senator Mike Crapo

cc: Representative Butch Otter
Representative Mike Simpson